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Monthly Performance Report

HOWARD'S GROVE SCHOOL

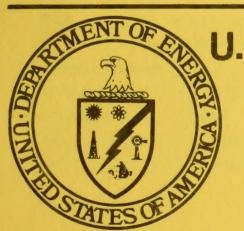
MAY 1979



U.S. Department of Energy

National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program





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MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT HOWARDS GROVE SCHOOL MAY 1979

I. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

This solar energy heating system is designed to provide 58 percent of the space heating for an addition to the North View Elementary School in Howards Grove, Wisconsin. The addition contains 12,330 square feet of heated space. The collector array has a total of 138 collector panels arranged in six rows, each row containing 23 flat-plate air collector panels. The array panels, manufactured by Sun Stone Solar Energy Equipment, have a gross area of 2,685 square feet. The collectors face south at an angle of 50 degrees from the horizontal. Air is the medium used for transferring energy from the collector array to storage. Solar energy is stored in a 16- by 21- by 6-foot concrete block bin containing 1,500 cubic feet of crushed rock located below the equipment room. When solar energy is inadequate to provide space heating, auxiliary thermal energy is supplied from a 397,200 Btu/hr fuel-oil boiler. The space heating control system modulates control dampers to mix outside air, return air and thermally heated air (solar and auxiliary) to maintain a building temperature of 67°F during the day and 55°F at night. A minimum of 10 percent fresh outside air is required by law to be mixed with return air.

This system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has three modes of operation.

Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage: This mode is entered when the collector array outlet temperature exceeds the temperature at the bottom of rock thermal storage by at least 17°F. Air is drawn from the collector array, using the collector circulating fan F2, into the rock thermal storage and recirculated to the collectors. This mode continues until the collector outlet temperature no longer exceeds the temperature in the bottom of rock thermal storage by at least 4°F.

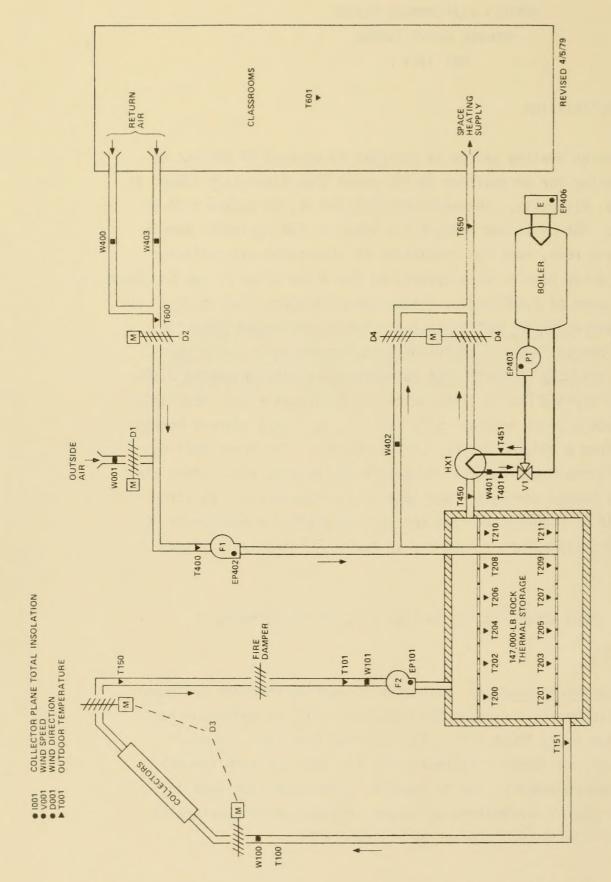


Figure 1. HOWARDS GROVE SCHOOL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

Mode 2 - Storage-to-Classrooms (Occupied): This mode is entered at the beginning of each school day as determined by a seven-day clock timer. Circulation fan Fl runs continuously to transfer energy from storage, to classrooms, and to provide ventilation. Outside air and return air dampers are modulated to supply fresh air at a mixed return air temperature of 60°F. Multizone control dampers modulate the mixed return air with thermally heated air from storage to maintain the space heating system supply air temperature. The auxiliary fuel-oil boiler supplements solar energy to meet the space heating demand, and to maintain the building's indoor ambient temperature. The seven-day clock timer terminates this mode at the end of each school day. The clock timer may be manually overridden to provide Mode 2 heating for irregularly scheduled (outside normal class hours) school events.

Mode 3 - Storage-to-Classrooms (Unoccupied): This mode is entered when there is a demand for space heating and the system is not in the Occupied mode. The outside air damper Dl is closed. Circulating fan Fl runs when a space heating demand exists to transfer energy from storage to classrooms, and to provide ventilation. Multizone control dampers modulate the return air with thermally heated air from storage to maintain the space heating system supply temperature. The auxiliary fuel-oil boiler supplements solar energy to meet the space heating demand and to maintain the building's indoor ambient temperatures. This mode terminates when either the demand for space heating ceases, or the system is changed to the Occupied mode.

Mode 1 operation can occur while either Mode 2 or 3 is active.

II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The system performance evaluations discussed in this section are based primarily on the analysis of the data presented in the attached computer-generated monthly report. This attached report consists of daily site thermal and energy values for each subsystem, plus environmental data. The performance factors discussed in this report are based upon the

definitions contained in NBSIR 76-1137, Thermal Data Requirements and Performance Evaluation Procedures for the National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program.

A. Introduction

The solar energy system at the Howards Grove School site operated continuously during the month of May. The system supplied 64 percent of the space heating demand of 13.32 million Btu. Operation of the solar energy system resulted in a savings of 11.14 million Btu of fossil fuel (77 gallons of fuel oil) at an expense of 1.88 million Btu (550 kwh) of electrical energy.

B. Weather

May weather conditions were near normal. The measured outside ambient temperature was 53°F, which is 1°F lower than the 54°F predicted from long-term averages. The measured wind velocity was 4 mph, less than the 11.2 mph predicted from long-term averages. The long-term average environmental conditions were obtained from the environmental data listed in Climatography of the United States No. 81 (By State).

The cloud cover was normal, as indicated by the measured insolation of 1,494 Btu/ft 2 -day. The predicted long-term monthly insolation is also 1,494 Btu/ft 2 -day; this is derived from an average of the data for Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as listed in <u>SOLMET Volume 1</u> - User's Manual.

C. System Thermal Performance

<u>Collector</u> - Of the 124.41 million Btu of solar energy incident on the collector array during May, 104.51 million Btu were incident on the array when fan F2 was operating. The system collected 33.95 million

Btu, or 27 percent of the total insolation incident on the collector array. However, the collected energy represents 32 percent of the operational incident energy. The operation of the collector circulating fan F2 required 1.34 million Btu of electrical energy.

Storage - From the indicated 33.95 million Btu of solar energy collected, 34.46 million Btu were delivered to rock thermal storage. (The slight energy imbalance is due to the uncertainty in the measurement of absolute temperatures in conjunction with large air flow rates.) A total of 8.47 million Btu was extracted from storage and delivered to the space heating subsystem. Storage lost 25.23 million Btu of solar energy which results in a storage efficiency of 27 percent.

Space Heating Load - The space heating load was near normal because the average monthly temperature of 53°F was near the 54°F predicted long-term average for May. The 392 heating degree-days measured at the site is above the 343 heating degree-days predicted from long-term averages. The design heating load for May was 46.9 million Btu based on data supplied through the Department of Energy. The design heating load was calculated assuming that a large controlled infiltration of outside air exists during normal operation of the site. This situation apparently existed during the month of May.

The measured space heating demand of 13.32 million Btu was satisfied by 8.47 million Btu of solar energy and 4.86 million Btu of auxiliary thermal energy resulting in a solar fraction of 64 percent. The 4.86 million Btu of auxiliary thermal energy for space heating were supplied by the consumption of 6.39 million Btu of fuel oil. This amounted to 44 gallons of fuel oil.

The analysis of the performance of storage revealed that the large circulating fan added energy to the building circulation air flow. This added energy produced a 1.5°F temperature rise across the circulation fan and, thus, contributed to satisfying the space heating demand. The magnitude of the induced energy amounted to 4.86 million Btu during May.

The large amount of solar energy lost from the rock thermal storage (25.23 million Btu) is believed to have migrated to the building and contributed to satisfying the space heating demand. Thus, the measured space heating demand, when combined with the circulating fan and the rock thermal storage energy contributions, results in an indicated space heating demand of 44.39 million Btu, which compares favorably with the predicted load of 46.9 million Btu.

D. Observations

The performance of the solar energy system continued to improve over the winter months. The collector array efficiency normally increases as the operating point moves from winter to spring. This is consistent with an air system in which the collector array return air temperature is nearly constant, which is the case for the Northview Elementary School (Howards Grove) solar energy system. As the ambient outside temperature rises, the operating point shifts toward lower values and the collector efficiency increases.

E. Energy Savings

The solar energy system installed in Howards Grove School resulted in an indicated savings of 11.14 million Btu (77 gallons) of fuel oil during May at an expense of 1.88 million Btu (550 kwh) of electrical operating energy. The space heating energy savings calculations are based on the energy requirements of a conventional propane-fired furnace with an efficiency of 76 percent compared to the energy requirements of the solar energy system.

The actual solar energy system's savings must include not only the direct solar contribution from the rock thermal storage, but also the thermal locontribution to the space heating demand. In addition, the fan energy tribution should be considered an auxiliary contribution to the space demand. When these additional energy contributions are considered, t

savings become 44.34 million Btu (308 gallons) of fuel oil. Also, the solar contribution to the space heating load increases from 64 percent to 76 percent.

III. ACTION STATUS

Additional instrumentation is being suggested to resolve the discrepancy between space heating demand measured by different instrumentation sensor sets. This would allow a more accurate determination of solar energy contribution and identify the source of the faulty sensor indications.

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REPORT MONTHLY REPOR

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SCLAR HEATING AND COOLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

MONTHLY REPORT FNVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

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